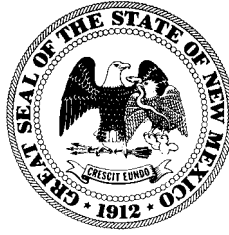


# State of New Mexico



Office of the Attorney General  
**PATRICIA A. MADRID**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release  
September 24, 2004

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### **Attorney General Patricia Madrid Awarded Grant to Fight Internet Crimes Against Children**

(Santa Fe, NM)— Attorney General Patricia Madrid announced today that her office has been awarded a federal grant to form New Mexico's first and only state-level Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. The \$281,000 federal grant issued by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, will allow Attorney General Madrid to investigate, track and combat child sexual predators and pornographers who exploit children through use of the Internet.

Attorney General Patricia Madrid stated, "My Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force will have the tools and knowledge needed to effectively track predators as they prey on children through Internet chat rooms. These added resources will help us track, investigate and prosecute the predators."

"I want to emphasize that while we in law enforcement will do our best, parents should still be the first line of defense in protecting children from these predators. The Internet can offer wonderful learning and exploring possibilities, but it can also be a very dangerous place where criminals prey. This Task Force will help bring on-line predators to justice, but I believe it's still critically important for parents to monitor their children's Internet use and to warn their kids about these Internet dangers."

The Attorney General's Task Force, with personnel overseen by her office, will also rely on the assistance of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to undertake the mission of protecting New Mexico's children against Internet sexual predators. The Task Force will assist local agencies with training and equipment.

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The grant will allow the Attorney General's office to continue with the work initially begun in 2001 by the New Mexico Committee on Internet Crimes Against Children. Should the Task Force be effective, the Attorney General's office will be eligible to receive an additional \$400,000 in another 18 months.

For more information on Attorney General Patricia Madrid's fight to protect New Mexico's children and Internet safety, visit her website at [www.ago.state.nm.us](http://www.ago.state.nm.us).

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